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President's Page

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Dear MAC Members,

June 2015

The MAC meeting in Lexington was remarkable for many reasons—the weather, to those of us who were winter-weary—was a dream. The events were wonderful. The sessions were engaging. In all, everyone I've had the opportunity to speak with dubbed MAC Lexington a very successful meeting! Let me congratulate once more all the members of the LAC (Heather Fox and Deirdre Skaggs, cochairs) and all members of the PC (Stephanie Bricking and Lisa Sjoberg, cochairs) for all of their hard work.

MAC's officers and Ex Officio Council were remarkably stable this year! Outgoing committee chairs include Portia Vescio (development coordinator), Tanya Zanish-Belcher (Education Committee cochair), and Daardi Sizemore (Nominating Committee). We literally have no one LEAVING Council. Jennifer Johnson is stepping directly from Council into the position of our new president.

We do have a few people coming into the leadership: Michelle Sweetser (Council), Carol Street (development coordinator), Lisa Sjoberg (Education Committee), Doug Bicknese (Nominating Committee), and Tanya Zanish-Belcher (Presidents' Award Committee chair). Welcome to all of you, and thank you for your service!

This newsletter is the traditional venue for my State of MAC Address, and this is my final address and letter as president. Two years of service have gone by in a flash!

State of MAC

MAC's strength comes from its members—those who volunteer in leadership positions, those who support our meetings, those who contribute to our publications, and those who participate in all of our workshops, symposia, and Speakers Bureau events. . . . MAC is built on membership, and this year leadership has continued its effort to support the development of membership and our organization.

You may recall that last year we worked with AMC to streamline some of the meeting administration process. As you will hear in the upcoming report from Vice President David McCartney, that system is working fairly smoothly and we are excited by the upcoming meeting offerings. I would also like to note that, because SAA is in our region this year, we are planning on being “visibly present” at SAA 2015. MAC will have a table to welcome both new and current members, so if you are planning on being in Cleveland in August, please be sure to stop by the MAC table! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact PIO Daria Labinsky.

Joel Thoreson's treasurer's report shows that MAC is gaining financial momentum. This allows us to continue to pursue initiatives that support our membership. The most ambitious of these continues to be the pilot of the Speakers Bureau, which has now held three very successful workshops in Jefferson City, Missouri; Muncie, Indiana; and Chicago. All workshops have been offered to local archivists free of charge, and they included topics such as an introduction to moving images, an introduction to strategic planning, and records management. A basic preservation course was offered in late May in Abilene, Kansas. The program has received very high marks from attendees, and it continues to be a wise investment for our organization. You'll continue to see information come out about this program.

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This year, leadership took on some issues that are a bit out of the ordinary, but that will have a lasting impact on membership:

In the fall, we uncovered an issue with the 2014 election, which resulted in an error of incorrectly reporting the winner of the treasurer position. As I reported to membership via a MAC Blast dated November 26, 2014, leadership was alerted to the issue, and we were able to investigate and resolve the problem. To underpin the process, we drew on the expertise of a parliamentarian as well as the MAC leadership, and the upshot is that Joel Thoreson was confirmed as our official treasurer. In addition, Council took immediate measures to prevent such an error in the future, including the appointment of two tellers who are not colocated and who will serve specific, staggered terms of service. Council is also addressing the issue of the disposition of all electronic information related to our elections. I want to thank MAC leadership, who addressed this problem professionally and with consideration for the integrity of the election process.

Just this spring, we had the opportunity to continue our discussion of MAC's core values. You will recall that in 2013 we adopted our own Statement of Values. The actions of Indiana's General Assembly and governor ignited discussion in the profession about the values of diversity, equity, and transparency. After discussion, MAC Council adopted SAA's Statement on Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA; available on SAA's homepage), which stresses in part that "discrimination and unequal treatment are inimical to the Society's values and goals." MAC Council shares concerns expressed by many about RFRA in particular and about similar acts under consideration in other states, and we are proud to reinforce our commitment to social responsibility and respectful treatment of all.

To that end, at this meeting the Documentation Working Group and MAC Council continued discussing a Code of Conduct, again similar to one adopted earlier by SAA, which states that MAC does not tolerate harassment in any form and is committed to providing an environment free of harassment to its members. You will hear more about this after the fall Council meeting.

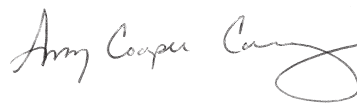
MAC's work to support members continues in all areas of the organization. Even as I step down from office, MAC's Council is gearing up to begin its next cycle of strategic planning, as the current strategic plan ends this year. With its focus on recruitment and retention of membership, professional advocacy and professional development, education, and infrastructure, the current strategic plan has served us well. We've made substantial improvements for membership since January of 2011, and we can see the influence of the strategic plan in the work of the organization today—in our education efforts, in our work on administrative issues, in our work on publications, and in our outreach.

As I step down as president, I'm grateful to have seen MAC through a small portion of that work. The perspective of the "day-to-day" work of the organization is fascinating, but it presents itself as a series of moments and tasks. It isn't until I sit down and review this year, my two-year term, and the five-year strategic plan, that the real impact of MAC becomes apparent. I see the strength and value of MAC's trajectory, and I see the collaboration that goes into making this organization run. MAC supports its members and, in doing so, supports the archival profession. MAC does *good* work, on many different levels. I am humbled and proud to have been asked to be a part of this process.

In closing, it's fitting to recognize you all. Thanks first and always to my husband, Tim Cary, who served MAC for years and has always supported me, listened patiently, and given valued advice. Thanks to Council members, committee chairs, and members with whom I have worked, both current and past—you've inspired me professionally, and you've become my friends. I am proud of the work that we have been able to accomplish together—this is a wonderful membership organization. I look forward to serving MAC for many years to come.

Finally, let me thank you for all the work you do and for the opportunity to serve as your president.

My best wishes to you all,



Amy Cooper Cary
President, Midwest Archives Conference